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Message Text

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10/43
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

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R 240838Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 976
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USBERLIN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAGRAPH THREE SHOULD BE NUMBERED
3. VICE 4.)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE, IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN AMBASSADOR DEO RECEIVED BY FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER

REF: A-20 MAY 20, 1975

1. EAST BERLIN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED OVER THE WEEKEND A MEETING ON JUNE 20 BETWEEN INDIAN AMBASSADOR A. R. DEO AND FIRST SECRETARY OF THE SED ERICH HONECKER. REPORTS STATED THAT THE CONVERSATION WAS GENERAL IN NATURE AND THAT GREETINGS FROM HONECKER TO PRESIDENT AHMED AND PRIME MINISTER GANDHI WERE GIVEN TO THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR. FOREIGN MINISTER OSKAR FISCHER WAS PRESENT DURING THE CONVERSATION.

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2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HONECKER PRAISED THE GOOD AND FRIENDLY

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RELATIONS WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE GDR AND INDIA AND NOTED THAT
THEY WERE BASED UPON SIMILAR VIEWPOINTS ON THE BASIC
ISSUES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. HE SUGGESTED THE
FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF A STABLE, LONG-TERM, PLANNED
AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP, BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. IN HIS RESPONSE, DEO REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED THE DESIRE OF
INDIA TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE GDR
IN THE SEVERAL AREAS IN WHICH COOPERATION ALREADY
EXISTS. HONECKER THEN PRAISED THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
WHICH INDIA HAS ACHIEVED IN DETERMINING ITS OWN
INDEPENDENCE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND THE
INTERNATIONAL RELAXATION OF TENSIONS, PARTICULARLY
THROUGH THE NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION ON THE
INDIAN SUBCONTINENT.

3. COMMENT AMBASSADOR DEO HAS BEEN RESIDENT HERE FOR
ABOUT TWO YEARS, AND HIS RECEPTION BY HONECKER IS
SIGNIFICANT SINCE MANY AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING
WESTERN AMBASSADORS, HAVE YET TO BE RECEIVED BY THE
SED FIRST SECRETARY, DURING THE MOST RECENT VOLKSKAMMER
PLENARY SESSION ON JUNE 19, MOREOVER, INDIAN AMBASSADOR DEO SAT
IN THE SAME FRONT ROW OF THE BALCONY RESERVED FOR
DIPLOMATS AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV AND THE
AMBASSADORS OF OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES. THE TIMING OF
THIS APPARENTLY NON-SUBSTANTIVE ENCOUNTER, WHICH WAS
DITERMINED BY HONECKER, AND ITS HEAVY-HANDED FRONT- PAGE TREATMENT,
SUGGEST THAT THE REGIME IS SIGNALING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE INDIAN
PRIME MINISTER AT A TIME OF DIFFICULTY. COOPER

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